# Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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## Mardi Gras Sneezeweed

***Helenium 'Mardi Gras'***



*Mardi Gras Sneezeweed flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Helen's Flower

**Description:**

A beautiful way to add late season color to borders, beds and butterfly gardens; densely branched plants produces sturdy stems of eye-catching, golden yellow and orange flowers with deep brown mounded center cones; excellent in cut-flower arrangements

**Ornamental Features**

Mardi Gras Sneezeweed has masses of beautiful gold daisy flowers with orange overtones, brown eyes and yellow anthers at the ends of the stems from mid summer to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

**Landscape Attributes**

Mardi Gras Sneezeweed is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;



*Mardi Gras Sneezeweed flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

- Disease

Mardi Gras Sneezeweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Mardi Gras Sneezeweed will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Mardi Gras Sneezeweed is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.